

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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R 131410Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6644
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1503

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, AG, SS
SUBJECT: SAHARA NOTES

1. FOLLOWING ZOUERATT RAID, ALGERIANS AND POLISARIO HAVE
SEEMED TO HAVE KEPT SAHARA FIRES BURNING IN BOTH MILITARY AND
DIPLOMATIC FIELDS.

2. FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF EL OUALI'S DEATH: GOA AND POLISARIO
COMMEMORATED FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OF FORMER POLISARIO
SECY GEN MUSTAPHA SEYED EL OUALIX JUNE 9 WITH CEREMONY
IN ALGIERS THEATER IN WHICH SAHRAOUI REPUBLIC PRIME
MINISTER LAMINE AMIN WAS FEATURED SPEAKER. ACCORDING
TO PRESS, SEVERAL ALGERIAN CABINET AND SUB-CABINET
OFFICERS, INCLUDING PRESIDENCY SECY GEN ALAHOUM
AND SECY GEN OF GOVERNMENT HAMDANI ATTENDED EVENT AS
DID AMBASSADORS OF COUNTRIES RECOGNIZING SAHROOUI RE-
PUBLIC, LIBYAN AND CUBAN AMBASSADORS AND MEMBERS OF
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STAFF OF SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEAN EMBASSIES. GOA
PAID TRIBUTE TO EL OUALI BY CHANGING NAME OF MAJOR ALGIERS
STREET FROM CLAUDE DEBUSSY TO CHAHID EL OUALI MUSTAPHA SAYEDX.

2. IN EVENING ALGERIAN TELEVISION RAN FILM OF SAHARA
FIGHTING TAKEN BY BRITISH TV TEAM. TWENTY-MINUTE
DOCUMENTARY SHOWED WHAT PURPORTED TO BE SHOOTING DOWN

OF MOROCCAN PROPELLOR-DRIVEN AIRCRAFT AND CAPTURE AND DESTRUCTION OF SEVERAL MOROCCAN TRUCKS OPERATING IN CONVOY. COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY OF DESERT WARFARE, INTERSPERSED WITH USUAL SHOTS OF WOMEN IN COMBAT TRAINING AND REFUGEE CAMPS, QUITE GRAPHIC.

3. BOU CRAA: IN COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED IN ALGERIAN PRESS JUNE 11, POLISARIO CLAIMED TO HAVE HIT BOU CRAA ONCE MORE, KILLING 37 MOROCCAN SOLDIERS AND DESTROYING AND CAPTURING MILITARY EQUIPMENT. WITH PHOSPHATE FACILITIES SAID TO HAVE BEEN PARALYZED FOR SOME TIME, COMMUNIQUE ASSERTED THAT ATTACK CONCENTRATED ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. AMGHALA ALSO SAID TO HAVE BEEN HIT.

4. WELL INFORMED JOURNALIST HERE SAYS SPANISH EMBASSY HAS CONFIRMED SPANISH PRESS REPORTS THAT SPANISH DRIVERS OF TRUCKS HAULING PHOSPHATE ORE FROM BOU CRAA TO EL AYOUN HAVE ABANDONED THEIR JOBS AND DEPARTED FOR CANARY ISLANDS BECAUSE CONDITIONS IN SAHARA TOO DANGEROUS. DRIVERS HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN PAID \$300-400 PER DAY FOR THEIR SERVICES.

5. COMMENT: AS USUAL, SMOKE TO FIRE RATIO IN POLISARIO MILITARY CLAIMS DIFFICULT TO GAUGE. WE WOULD GUESS, HOWEVER, THAT ATTACK ON BOU CRAA MAY HAVE BEEN SOMETHING MORE THAN NORMAL POLISARIO HIT AND RUN OPERATION.LYNE

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